

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### SENIOR USAID OFFICIAL FOR NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE DEPARTS DHAKA

**DHAKA, NOVEMBER 12** -- Dr. Josette Lewis, Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Agriculture and a senior official for the new U.S. Government Food Security Initiative departed Dhaka today. Dr. Lewis visited Dhaka to discuss President Obama's new food security initiative. Her visit marks the beginning of active planning and consultations between the Bangladesh and U.S. governments that will lead to a new food security program in Bangladesh. Bangladesh will lead the development of this strategy.

Dr. Lewis met with senior Bangladesh Government officials, including the Ministers for Health, Agriculture and Food and Disaster Management. She also met with development partners, members of civil society and think tanks. During these consultations she described the new U.S. food security initiative and obtained feedback from the Bangladesh Government and other partners on this country's food security priorities. These consultations will enable her to develop an overall understanding of the policies and practices affecting agricultural productivity, nutrition, food aid and sustainable agriculture in Bangladesh.

The U.S. Government has provided \$5.5 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In addition to providing immediate food assistance, the U.S. Government has provided significant contributions to Bangladesh to encourage higher education in agriculture and develop agricultural research facilities. U.S. Government assistance helped establish the wheat research center, the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research council.

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*Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*